



# Water Quality NewsFlash

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**Diazinon, Nonylphenol – EPA sets final criteria** – Over the years, U.S. EPA has published recommended water quality criteria for approximately 150 pollutants. These criteria are intended to prevent toxicity to aquatic organisms and also to decrease risks to human health from exposure: 1) indirectly through consumption of contaminated fish and shellfish and, 2) directly through water consumption. These recommended criteria do not have regulatory force until they are adopted as part of state water quality standards. EPA recently published final criteria for the protection of aquatic life for two constituents of interest to the storm water community:

**Diazinon** – This once popular insecticide is on the current 303(d) list as causing impairment for approximately 80 California waterbodies or segments. In some cases the waterbodies were contaminated via aerial deposition from agricultural sources. EPA has set both the acute (1 hr) and chronic (4 day) freshwater criteria at 0.17 micrograms per liter (ug/l). Both saltwater criteria are set at 0.82 ug/l. The California Department of Fish and Game had previously set an acute criterion of 0.08 ug/l (freshwater only) which has been used for 303(d) listing purposes. Many uses, particularly homeowner use, have been or are being phased out and diazinon impacts are expected to decrease significantly.

<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/diazinon/>

**Nonylphenol** – This chemical is a breakdown product of several commonly used detergents and other products. It is routinely detected in surface waters and is considered an endocrine disrupter (either mimics or blocks hormones). A reconnaissance survey of 139 U.S. streams found that nonylphenol was one of the most commonly occurring pollutants and was also measured at higher concentrations than most other pollutants. Much of the nonylphenol in waterways comes from sewage treatment plant discharges. Another major source is thought to be car washing and the resulting runoff into storm drains. The acute criterion (1 hr exposure) is set at 28 ug/L for freshwater and 7.0 ug/L for saltwater.

<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/nonylphenol/>

**CASQA Call for Papers** - The California Stormwater Quality Association has issued a call for papers and presentations for its 2nd annual conference and exposition to be held in Sacramento this fall. Abstracts must be received by April 7, 2006. <http://www.casqa.org/>

**Wetland Restoration – Methylmercury concerns** – Major wetland restoration programs are currently underway around San Francisco Bay and in other parts of the state. One concern with these projects is that new wetlands are capable of increasing the conversion of elemental mercury to methylmercury, which is more toxic and tends to bioaccumulate through the food chain. Conversely, by opening up new areas to tidal action, the overall tidal flushing activity of the Bay will increase and thereby decrease pollutant concentrations. Restoration managers are examining possible strategies to minimize mercury methylation. Article: <http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/news/local/13966726.htm> Bay Area restoration programs: [http://www.southbayrestoration.org/Project\\_Description.html](http://www.southbayrestoration.org/Project_Description.html) and <http://www.sfwetlands.ca.gov/>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, [Betty\\_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov) (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, [fkrieger@msn.com](mailto:fkrieger@msn.com) with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>